

Legislative Document No. 6.

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REPORT

OF THE

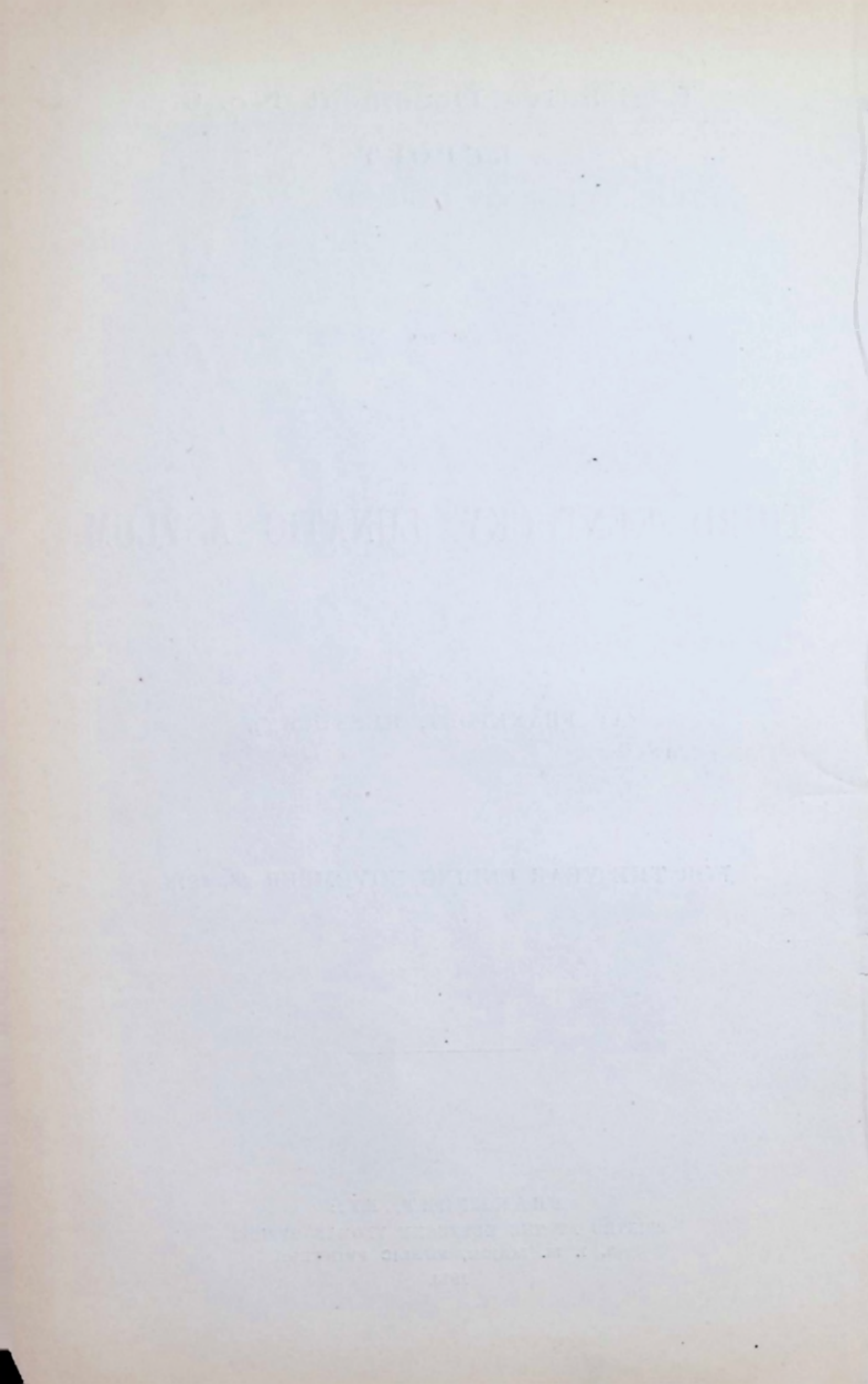
THIRD KENTUCKY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

(AT FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY),

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 28, 1873.

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FRANKFORT, KY.:  
PRINTED AT THE KENTUCKY YEOMAN OFFICE,  
S. I. M. MAJOR, PUBLIC PRINTER,  
1873,



## THIRD KENTUCKY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

*To His Excellency, P. H. LESLIE, Governor of Kentucky:*

SIR: In compliance with the law, the undersigned, Commissioners of the Third Lunatic Asylum, beg leave to make the following report:

When we entered upon our office we found the Institution in debt to about the following amount: \$3,846 08.

The former Board prepared a full statement of the facts, together with a memorial to the Legislature, asking for an appropriation to meet it, which has already been placed in your hands.

Since May the 1st, 1873, to October the 1st, 1873, the indebtedness of the

Third Lunatic Asylum has been (including the use of the products of the farm) -----	\$10,791 52
Amount of appropriation -----	8,909 91
Leaving yet unpaid -----	<u>\$1,881 61</u>

The Board thought it best to purchase, while it could be bought cheap, the fuel for the remainder of the year and a portion of the next; so in July and August there were delivered at the Institution ten thousand bushels of coal, at twenty-five cents per bushel. On that account the sum of \$750 has been paid, leaving yet unpaid the above sum of \$1,881 61, which will be liquidated within the next two quarters or six months.

It is proper, however, to state, that, with the present appropriation, it will be impossible to properly conduct the Asylum, and meet its absolute demands. Two new officers have been created, whose salaries have been paid out of the appropriation to the Feeble-minded School, no provision having been made for them in the present law. Again, important and necessary improvements had, and will yet have, to be made on the premises; and for these necessary repairs to protect the property, and make the inmates comfortable, a considerable outlay has been forced upon the Commissioners.

An appropriation of \$5,000 to pay salaries, and two hundred dollars per capita for the inmates, will be amply sufficient to meet all demands hereafter, and this amount will be less than the appropriations made for the other Asylums. It will be borne in mind that the Institution is still occupied by the feeble-minded children of the State, and that the school is now in operation.

Its establishment in 1860 was experimental in a large degree ; but it has surpassed the most sanguine expectations of its supporters, and secured many friends throughout the country.

The idea entertained by many, and so eagerly advocated, that the feeble-minded could not be successfully and permanently improved, and thereby become self-sustaining, has been very greatly dissipated. The facts in the case no longer warrant such impressions at this time. Seven other similar Institutions, located north of the Ohio river, have, equally with this only one south, proven their success, and have drawn to their support so many sympathizers, that we deem it to be unwise to discontinue this one, erected and conducted thus far at so much cost, and having done so much good.

Many of the children sent here helpless, and very feeble-minded, dependent on friends or the State, have, after remaining three, four, and five years, been sent away so much improved as not only to be of no expense to friends or State, but self-supporting, and add their mite to the support of the State.

Many instances have been given heretofore in the reports of the Superintendent of this fact; but we submit the following brief statements concerning a few, which we trust will be sufficient testimony, together with our own personal knowledge of many who are now in good homes procuring fair wages.

A personal examination of the following pupils by some of the Commissioners indicate the success of the effort to educate the feeble minded. We state the condition of the pupil when received, taken from the books of the Institution, made after a careful examination by the Superintendent and others, and then the progress :

**ZACHARIAH HUNT**—Age sixteen years. When he entered the school, one year ago, he had no idea of form, color, or number ; did not know a letter in the book, though great effort had been made to teach him. Is now spelling, reading plain sentences, reading and writing figures very well, with good prospects of success.

**WILLIE RIGGS**—Ten years old. When he was admitted, October, 1872, as an idiot from the poor-house, could not count five ; did not know his right hand from the left ; had great difficulty in articulating, with a mind almost blank. Is already spelling and reading words of one syllable, and writes in a fine bold hand figures and simple words ; talks very well, and counts one hundred without difficulty.

**WILLIE HAFLE**R—Ten years old. Been in the Institution one year ; was an imbecile from birth ; had gone to school two years, but did not know the alphabet ; had no idea of form, color, or numbers, but is now



spelling, reading, writing, and cyphering very well; has wonderfully advanced.

LILLIE COLE—Nine years old. When she came, had been in the Baptist Orphans' Home two years; took no interest in anything above the toys of a child two or three years old; did not know the alphabet; could not count ten; had no idea of form, color, or numbers. Within one year spells, reads, knows figures, and counts one hundred with ease.

JOEL TAPP—Entered the school at the age of twelve years; been there two years; had very little mind, and spoke very imperfectly—so much so as to be understood with difficulty. Now reads and writes tolerably well, and improves all the time.

JOHN MASON—Came to the school two years ago. Age twelve. Was wild, destructive, and hard to control; would kill all kinds of poultry, pigs, &c., and was disposed to be very cruel; could read a little in sentences composed of monosyllables. His improvement has been very great. He now reads very well in the Fourth Reader; writes well, and talks intelligently; is kind and gentle, and superintends the poultry yard, and takes great care of the fowls, and seems happy in the employment, and is a useful boy.

MARY GEORGE HARRIS—Age thirteen years. Entered the school October 25th, 1872; had gone to school over ten years; did not know her letters, and could not count ten; had no idea of form, color, or numbers. Has so improved in one year as to spell and read short sentences of one syllable.

MARTHA WHITTAKER—Eighteen years of age when she came. At this age it was thought very doubtful whether she could be taught. She was perfectly ignorant and stupid when she came, two years ago. But she is now spelling, reading, and writing very well—quite improved.

HERNDON HILL—Brought to the Institute from the poor-house as a feeble-minded boy; ten years old. Has been in the school eighteen months. When he entered could not count; had no idea of form, color, or numbers; but is now spelling, reading, writing, and cyphering remarkably well. This, too, has been a very great success. The boy is no doubt saved from being a poor helpless idiot all his days, and rendered useful and quite intelligent.

LIZZIE COLE—Was fourteen years of age when she was brought to the Institution. Has been in the school four months; knew nothing when she came; is now spelling and reading in monosyllables, and counts very well.

MATTIE BROOKS—From the Episcopal Orphans' Home, Louisville. An effort for three years was made to educate this child, but failed to teach her the alphabet; being in the school two years, she has advanced beyond

expectations, and now reads difficult pieces in the Fourth Reader; writes a pretty neat hand; makes pretty figures, understands their force, and has quite an intelligent face.

The question may be asked, how is it that these children advance so much more rapidly here than elsewhere? Or why is it they cannot be educated elsewhere? The answer is, this school was organized for that specific purpose. The teachers use and employ every appliance for their improvement, are always with them, and press them forward. Nowhere else have they such advantages as here, nor can they be had to such an extent as in a State Institution.

Were we to look only at the benefits of this Institution from this standpoint, it would be sufficient, we imagine, to demand its support and continuance. We cannot, however, fail to suggest that every consideration of humanity requires of a noble and generous people the special care of those who cannot care for themselves, who are, many of them, perhaps four fifths, without father or mother, relatives, or the means of support.

After having gone thus far, expended so much money, and done so much good, it would be strange, and we believe radically wrong, to abandon the enterprise, and leave these children without homes or friends, and all those who may in the future be unfortunate, to a like fate.

It is unnecessary to argue this question, as it is believed every true man and woman in Kentucky will most cheerfully submit to the small tax collected from them for its support. They will not, they cannot, tear down and destroy this grand institution, which has done and is doing so much good for our unfortunate fellow-citizens.

The present law contemplates the removal of these children back again to the counties from which they were sent, when the other Asylums are filled to their utmost capacity; which time has not yet arrived, and it is to be hoped will never come.

Some ten or twelve harmless lunatics have been temporarily taken care of until the Fourth Asylum can provide for them; but the school, with its usual discipline, has been kept up.

It will be observed that there are now four children in the Asylum from other States; they have thus far paid their own expenses, and have cost the State nothing. The Board, however, has instructed the Superintendent to return these children to their homes whenever their places may be needed by children from this State; yet it is quite customary, when it can be done, for such institutions to receive pupils from other States.

#### GENERAL CONDITION OF THE INSTITUTION.

While disease of a fearful and fatal character has stalked through the land within the last year, and destroyed thousands, we have reason to be

thankful to Him who doeth all things well for the general good health of the Institution. Only 0 children have died since the last annual report, and but little sickness has been amongst them. This result is owing, no doubt, in a great measure, to the

## SUPERINTENDENT AND OFFICERS

of the Institution, whom we take great pleasure in commending for their faithfulness, skill, and unwearying kindness and patience with these unfortunate inmates. The Asylum is never without the Superintendent or the Assistant Physician, and both are generally in attendance, while the Matron and subordinates are always at their post.

In this connection, we would state that the Board thought it advisable and altogether proper to continue the school and the employment of teachers. Hence Miss Holden, Miss Owen, and Miss Black, were engaged, and are now, with the Superintendent, conducting the school.

The patience, kindness, and perseverance of these teachers is unprecedented; many of us have witnessed, time and again, the faithfulness and gentleness of these teachers, and the love of the children for them bears the strongest testimony of their efficiency and kindness.

Number of children received into the Institution since the report of December 1st, 1871,	43
Dead.....	9
Dismissed .....	14
Present number .....	100

## Of the 100—

From the city of Louisville.....	21
From Mercer county .....	1
From Trimble county .....	1
Not known .....	1
From Madison county .....	3
From Clark county .....	1
From Henderson county.....	3
From Bullitt county .....	1
From Greenup county.....	2
From Franklin county .....	4
From Bracken county.....	1
From Daviess county.....	1
From Hancock county.....	2
From Adair county .....	1
From Covington .....	5
From Owen county .....	3
From Newport .....	3
From Garrard county .....	1
From Kenton county.....	1
From Henry county .....	4



From Ballard county.....	1
From Scott county.....	1
From Fayette county.....	1
From Jessamine county.....	1
From Boyd county.....	1
From Breathitt county.....	1
From Webster county.....	3
From Harrison county.....	4
From Bourbon county.....	2
From Gallatin county.....	1
From Oldham county.....	1
From Warren county.....	1
From Jefferson county.....	1
From Mason county.....	1
From Pendleton county.....	1
From Hopkins county.....	1
From Laurel county.....	2
From Simpson county.....	1
From Butler county.....	1
From Woodford county.....	1
From Campbell county.....	1
From Allen county.....	1
From McCracken county.....	1
From Lincoln county.....	3
From Cumberland county.....	1
From Todd county.....	1
From Louisiana.....	1
From Tennessee.....	1
From Illinois.....	1
From Indiana.....	1

The last four average annually \$218 75, and furnish their clothing. Of the number from the State, two pay, each, \$150 00; one pays \$30 00; two agreed to pay what they could; eleven are clothed by parents; and the balance are entirely indigent.

Respectfully submitted.

GRANT GREEN, *Chairman*,  
 GREEN CLAY SMITH,  
 STEPHEN BLACK,  
 BENJ. F. DUVAL,  
 NAT. J. SAWYER,  
 S. C. BULL.  
 J. L. RODMAN,  
 W. S. DEHONEY.  
 J. W. TATE.